

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, April 28, 2011

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd  
Attendance recorded as follows:  
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, Carlos Sosa, Ilean Rabens, Arnold Gilberg, George Caballero, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco  
**ACTION TAKEN** – March 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.  
Motions by Perrou/Askins

**II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

- **Executive Committee Meeting Highlights** – Delores Huffman reported on items discussed at the meeting on April 14, 2011:  
**Commission Budget** – The executive committee developed a detailed budget proposal for the purpose of identifying commission expenses such as food, retreat, annual awards program and CALMHBC membership dues. Subsequently, the committee plans to invite Margo Morales, DMH Administrative Deputy to discuss proposing a budget submission.  
**Volunteer Awards Program** – The awards program was renamed Hope, Wellness and Recovery awards. The change recognizes the theme "Profiles of Hope" that supports honoring individuals who have recovered from a mental disability and made contributions to the lives of others who suffer mental disabilities.  
**Departmental Report was given by Dr. Shaner.** Effective June 2011 Health Care Reform will be renamed "Health Reform." Details for Healthy Way LA integration and 1115 Waiver enrollment process are being worked out. Someone from DMH Executive Management plans to update the Commission at the next full meeting on Health Reform.  
**MHC/SAAC Chairs Meeting** – Terry Lewis reported SAAC Chairs are working with Yvette Townsend to develop guidelines and policies to standardize membership rules for each SAACs.
- **FY 2011/12 Executive Committee Nominations** – The Nominations Committee revised the nomination form and requested staff make changes and redistribute the form.

- **New Employee Orientation (NEO)** – Chairman Gasco asked a member to volunteer to speak at the next New Employee Orientation. Victoria Sofro responded and will attend the NEO with Terry Lewis.

### III. **DMH Report given by Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director and Dr. Rod Shaner, Medical Director**

**Budget** – Dr. Kay reported FY 2010/11 will close with a \$15 million deficit because realignment fell \$8 million below expectation, and a state audit of AB 3632 resulted in dollars returned to the state budget. DMH plans to appeal the audit decision.

The outlook for FY 2011/2012 is satisfactory and hopeful much of which is dependent on the current state budget position, and increased managed care monitoring and revenue.

Dr. Kay reported she is the co-chair of the workgroup on behavioral health care homes. The intent of this group is to develop core competencies for the health care homes concept. Several homes operating in Los Angeles County have already been identified.

**Health Reform** – Dr. Shaner described the purpose of health reform for the nation. The key issue for DMH is to create a more efficient system, save dollars, and ensure more people have health coverage. By 2014 every person below 113% poverty level qualifies for Medi-Cal coverage.

Dr. Shaner also described LIP (Low Income Plan) also known as Healthy Way LA. The intent of this plan is to create health care homes with mandatory mental health services provided to adults without kids within 30 days. By June 2011, 15,000 will be enrolled in primary care homes.

The department works closely with Department of Health Services to integrate new practices and research in communities to design health care homes systematically. The strategy is to feed off each system, such as primary care to mental health care or mental health care to primary care. The “home” concept is where all primary and mental health care services are available.

Dr. Shaner reported funding continues to be a challenge for PMRT. The issue of available private and public facilities for clients in an emergency crisis is still problematic.

## **Legislative Report – Susan Rajlal**

Ms. Rajlal discussed several elements that shape the situation in Sacramento for DMH.

**Passage of AB 100** – authorize one-time redirection of \$861 million from MHSAs to fund managed care, EPSDT, and AB 3632 programs for all counties. State DMH changes its role in MHSAs funding distribution. Funds will be distributed monthly instead of yearly. State DMH and MHSOAC (Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission) no longer review and approve county MHSAs plans. MHSOAC establish more effective means of ensuring county accountability.

## **IV. Commissioners' Reports**

**Delores Huffman** – Ms. Huffman submitted the following housing report for the month of April 2011:

### **MHSA Housing Program**

Thirty-four projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program in various stages of development. The status of each project as of April 22, 2011 is shown below:

#### **Developing Supportive Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period**

- Avalon II Family Apartments
- Alternative Living for the Aging
- W.O.R.K.S. - Eagle Vista
- Montecito Terrace – AMCAL Multi-Housing Inc.
- Day Street Apartments – LA Family Housing

#### **Finalizing Supportive Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period**

- Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDD)
- Med-Celis Apartments – Los Angeles Housing Partnership
- Long Beach & 21<sup>st</sup> Street Apartments – PATH Ventures

#### **Preparing Technical Submission**

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

#### **Invitation to Submit Full Application**

- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- New Genesis Apartments

**Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval**

- Figueroa Apartments
- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- Cedar Springs Apartments

**Approved for Funding by the State**

- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- KIWA Apartments

**Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction**

- Young Burlington
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Glenoaks Gardens
- Parkview on the Park Apartments \*
- New Genesis Apartments \*
- Epworth Apartments
- 28<sup>th</sup> Street YMCA
- Horizon Apartments
- NoHo Senior Villas
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments

**Open for Occupancy**

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments
- The Courtyards in Long Beach

\* Projects under construction awaiting final approval

**Housing Trust Fund Program**

Twelve of the fifteen executed Service Agreements are in operation one of which is a shared housing and scattered site projects. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 400 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The services being provided assists formerly homeless individuals and their families maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. Glenoaks Gardens, the Los Angeles Family Housing project located in Service Area 2 is still under construction. Cedar Springs and Nehemiah Courts projects remain in the

predevelopment phase as they are finalizing their capital funding. The Navy Village apartments and Swarthy housing projects remain under negotiation.

### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

#### **Housing Assistance Program**

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposits and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. In addition, financial resources are available to pay one month's rent in arrears to prevent eviction and ongoing rental assistance for qualified clients. The funding sources for the Housing Assistance Program include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and MHSA. As of April 22, 2011, the Department assisted the following number of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 214 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 272 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 7 clients and/or their families with paying for utilities;
- 27 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 67 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

#### **V. Community and SAAC Reports -**

**SAAC 6** - Dorothy Banks gave a report on activities from the last SAAC 6 meeting. Staff from DMH Transitional Age Youth program presented countywide anti stigma, increase public awareness, identify education, identify screening, and align partnerships.

#### **VI. Public Comments -**

**Larry Looney** – New psychology theory presented by TV show.

**Sawako Nitao** – Job announcement--Superior Grocers now hiring, call 626 214 1606 in the Baldwin Park area.

**Jamie Garcia** – Expressed opposition to DMH plan to eliminate PMRT response to non-designated hospitals. Issue will have wide spread implications.

**William Legere** – Spoke on legislative budget issues.

**Pan Inaba** – Announced two events taking place in the month of May that focus education and employment.

**VII. Meeting adjourned – PLEASE THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN MAY**

**NEXT MEETING LOCATION AND TIME CHANGE**

**Thursday, June 23, 2011**

**12 – 2:30 pm**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**Room 739**

**500 West Temple Street**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd